

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 46 and add new claim 140 as indicated in the following list of pending claims.

Pending Claims

1-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) A system for containing [[a]] an external region of a patient's aortic aneurysm having an outside transverse dimension and having a healthy aortic portion adjacent to the aneurysm with an outside transverse dimension smaller than the outside transverse dimension of the aneurysm, comprising:

an elongated containment member which has a constricted configuration and which has a leading length in a relaxed configuration that has a transverse dimension which is greater than that of the outside transverse dimension of the healthy portion of the patient's aorta adjacent to the aortic aneurysm and is adapted to be advanced about an exterior surface of the healthy aortic portion adjacent to the aneurysm;

a longitudinal tubular guide member having a proximal end, an essentially straight proximal portion, a distal end, a curved distal portion which directs the containment member about the exterior surface of the healthy portion of the patient's aorta adjacent to the aneurysm, a port in the distal end, an inner lumen extending through the guide member to and in fluid communication with the port in the distal end configured to receive the elongated containment member~~[[;]] [[and]]~~

~~an elongated containment member which has a constricted configuration when slidably disposed in the inner lumen of the tubular guide member and which has a leading length in a relaxed configuration when advanced out the port in the distal end of~~

~~the guide member that has a transverse dimension which is more than that of the outside transverse dimension of the healthy portion of the patient's aorta adjacent to the aortic aneurysm and is adapted to be advanced about an exterior surface of the aortic aneurysm.~~

47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 wherein the containment member includes at least one free end.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 47 wherein the at least one free end of the containment member is configured to be atraumatic.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the containment member comprises a strand.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the strand forms a tubular member.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the strand includes a wire member.

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the strand includes a ribbon member.

53. (Withdrawn) The system of any one of claims 49, 50, 51, or 52 wherein the strand includes a plurality of longitudinally oriented strands transversely spaced apart and attached to an adjacent strand with an attachment mean.

54. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 53 wherein the longitudinally oriented strands have a width ranging from about 0.001 to about 2 centimeters.

55. (Withdrawn) The system of any one of claims 49, 50, 51, or 52 wherein the strand includes a plurality of longitudinally oriented strands transversely spaced

apart and a plurality of transversely oriented strands longitudinally spaced apart, the longitudinally oriented strands connected to one another by at least one of the transversely oriented strands.

56. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 55 wherein the longitudinally oriented and transversely oriented strands have a width, independently, ranging from about 0.0001 to about 2 centimeters.

57. (Withdrawn) The system of any one of claims 49, 50, 51, or 52 wherein the strand is formed of a material from the group consisting of polymers, metals, shape memory alloys, biodegradable material, and a combination thereof.

58. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56 wherein the shape memory alloy includes nickel titanium.

59. (Withdrawn) The system of any one of claims 49, 50, 51, or 52 wherein the strand is in the form of a coil.

60. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 59 wherein the coil has a constant diameter.

61. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 59 wherein the coil has a variable diameter.

62. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 59 wherein the coil is tapered at either or both ends.

63. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 59 wherein at least some of the turns of the coil when disposed about the exterior of the tissue site wrap around the circumference of the tissue site.

64. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 59 wherein the turns of the coil when disposed about the exterior of the tissue site form an arcuate structure.

65. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 59 wherein the coil in a relaxed configuration has a pitch between adjacent turns ranging from about 0.002 to about 20 centimeters.

66. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 65 wherein the pitch ranges from about 0.002 to about 2 cm.

67. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 65 wherein the pitch ranges from about 2 to about 10 cm.

68. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 65 wherein the pitch ranges from about 10 to about 20 cm.

69. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 65 wherein the coil has a variable pitch.

70. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 65 wherein the containment member has means to secure the adjacent turns of the coil.

71. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 70 wherein the securing means includes any one of coil, wire, or strand.

72. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 49 wherein the containment member has a longitudinal dimension ranging from about 1 mm to about 50 cm.

73. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 49 wherein the containment member includes multiple lumens.

74. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 73 wherein at least one of the multiple lumens is configured to be an inflation lumen, a therapeutic fluid delivery lumen, or a strand lumen.

75. (Previously presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the containment member has outer and inner surfaces defining at least in part a wall, a lumen disposed within the wall, and a containment surface defined at least in part by the inner surface of the wall.

76. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 75 wherein the containment member is configured to deliver therapeutic fluids to the tissue site.

77. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 75 wherein the lumen defined by the containment member inner and outer surfaces is a fluid lumen, either or both the containment member outer and inner surfaces including at least one aperture fluidically connectable to the containment member fluid lumen.

78. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 77 wherein the aperture size ranges from about 1 micron to about 2 millimeters.

79. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 78 wherein the aperture size ranges from about 1 micron to about 1 cm.

80. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 77 wherein the fluid lumen is fluidically connectable to a source of therapeutic fluid.

81. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 50 wherein the containment member has an outer diameter and an inner diameter defined by the inner surface.

82. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 81 wherein the inner diameter is configured to have a variable dimension.

83. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 82 wherein the containment member has outer and inner surfaces and a fluid lumen defined therebetween and a containment

lumen defined by the inner surface, and the inner diameter of the containment member is decreased upon the expansion of the containment member fluid lumen.

84. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 83 wherein the fluid lumen is fluidically connectable to a source of inflation lumen.

85. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 49 wherein the containment member further includes a sleeve disposed on at least a portion of an exterior surface of the containment member.

86. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 85 wherein the sleeve includes multiple lumens.

87. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 86 wherein at least one of the multiple lumens of the sleeve is configured to be an inflation lumen.

88. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 85 wherein the sleeve has an inner and outer surface and an inner lumen disposed therebetween.

89. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 88 wherein the containment member has an inner diameter defined by an inner surface of the containment member, the containment member inner diameter decreasing upon the expansion of the sleeve inner lumen.

90. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 89 wherein the sleeve inner lumen is fluidically connectable to a source of inflation fluid.

91. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 75 wherein the containment member is configured to at least partially encircle at least a portion of the tissue site.

92. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 91 wherein the containment member is configured to at least partially encircle at least a portion of a tissue site adjacent the vulnerable tissue site.

93. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 75 wherein the containment member inner surface has a curvature substantially less than 360.degree.

94. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 75 wherein the containment member inner surface includes an adhesion promoter.

95. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 94 wherein the adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of fibrin and cyanoacrylates.

96. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 50 wherein the containment member has an outer surface defining an outer diameter and an inner surface defining an inner diameter.

97. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 96 wherein the vulnerable tissue site has a first thickness and a tissue site adjacent the vulnerable tissue site has a second thickness.

98. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97 wherein the dimension of the inner diameter of the containment member in a relaxed configuration is substantially the same or slightly larger than the thickness of the vulnerable tissue site.

99. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97 wherein the dimension of the inner diameter of the containment member in a relaxed configuration is substantially larger than the thickness of the vulnerable tissue site.

100. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 99 wherein the dimension of the inner diameter of the containment member in a relaxed configuration is about 25% larger than the thickness of the vulnerable tissue site.

101. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97 wherein the dimension of the inner diameter of the containment member in a relaxed configuration is substantially between the first thickness of the vulnerable tissue site and second thickness of the adjacent tissue site.

102. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97 wherein the dimension of the inner diameter of the containment member in a relaxed configuration is substantially the same as the second thickness of the adjacent tissue site.

103. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97 wherein the dimension of the inner diameter of the containment member in a relaxed configuration is slightly less than the second thickness of the adjacent tissue site.

104. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 97 wherein the dimension of the inner diameter of the containment member in a relaxed configuration is about 10% less than the second thickness of the adjacent tissue site.

105. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 101 wherein the vulnerable and adjacent tissue sites are part of a first tubular member and the first and second thicknesses are defined by outer diameters of the vulnerable and adjacent tissue sites, respectively.

106. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 77 wherein the aperture is configured to delivered hardenable material to the exterior surface of vulnerable tissue site.

107-116. (Cancelled)

117. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein the curved portion of the elongated tubular guide member extends from the about 2 mm to about 20 cm from the distal end thereof.

118. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein the curved portion of the elongated tubular guide member has a radius of curvature ranging from about 0.5 to about 3 cm.

119. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein the curved portion of the elongated tubular guide member is configured to have an angle ranging from about -180° to +180°.

120. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein the elongated tubular guide member has multiple deflection points.

121-135. (Canceled)

136. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the curved distal portion of the longitudinal tubular guide member has a length from the about 2 mm to about 20 cm.

137. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the curved distal portion of the longitudinal tubular guide member has a radius of curvature ranging from about 0.5 to about 3 cm.

138. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the curved distal portion of the longitudinal tubular guide member is configured to have an angle ranging from about -180° to +180°.

139. (Previously presented) The system of claim 46 wherein the longitudinal tubular guide member has multiple deflection points.

140. (New) A system for containing an external region of a patient's aortic aneurysm having an outside transverse dimension and having a healthy aortic portion adjacent to the aneurysm with an outside transverse dimension smaller than the outside transverse dimension of the aneurysm, comprising:

an elongated containment member which has a constricted configuration and which has a leading length in a relaxed configuration that has a transverse dimension which is greater than that of the outside transverse dimension of the healthy portion of the patient's aorta adjacent to the aortic aneurysm and is adapted to be advanced about an exterior surface of the healthy aortic portion adjacent to the aneurysm; and

a longitudinal tubular guide member having a proximal end, an essentially straight proximal portion, a distal end, a double curvature distal portion which directs the containment member about the exterior surface of the healthy portion of the patient's aorta adjacent to the aneurysm, a port in the distal end, an inner lumen extending through the guide member to and in fluid communication with the port in the distal end configured to receive the elongated containment member.